

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

App. No. : 10/711,262 Confirmation No. 5261  
Applicant : Soichiro Okubo, et al.  
Filed : September 7, 2004  
T.C./A.U. : 2872  
Examiner : Chapel, Derek S.  
Docket No. : 39.003-C  
Customer No. : 29453

Honorable Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**REPLY Under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.113 and 1.116**

Sir:

In response to the Office action of August 24, 2006, made final, in the above-identified patent application, Applicants request entry of the following amendment, which cancels certain claims, and as required by the Office, editorially revises one other claim.

This reply is being filed on December 26, 2006—the first business day (December 25 being a Federal holiday) following the Sunday, December 24, 2006 date that is four calendar months from the mailing date of the Office action—along with a petition for a one-month extension of time, and is therefore timely filed.

**AMENDMENT Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121**

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 5 of this paper.